THE MINISTER OF DEFFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The number of cases filed by Army personnel including Ex-Servicemen in Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years are indicated below:—

| Year | High Court | Supreme Court |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 1185 | 38 |
| 1997 | 1255 | 34 |
| 1998 | 1395 | 33 |
| 1999 (February'99) | 104 | 2 |

(c) Government had earlier agreed in principle to set up an Armed Forces Administrative and Court Martial Tribunal in respect of the Armed Forces personnel. Thereafter, certain legal and administrative issues have come up in further processing the matter. After a detailed consideration of these issues, a final view will be taken.

(d) No, Sir.

**Post-graduate study opportunities to non-service personnel in AMS**

*108. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-graduate study opportunities in Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics and other clinical subjects in Army Medical Service (AMS) are squandered by way of offering them to non-service medical graduates, even when AMS personnel, fully eligible for such post-graduate studies, are available within the service;

(b) if so, how many such opportunities were given to non-service personnel in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Post Graduate study opportunities in the Army Medical Corps.(AMC) are available at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Research & Referral Hospital, Delhi Cantt. Command Hospital (Air Force), Bangalore and INHS Asvini, Mumbai. All post graduate seats in the Service Institutions are allotted strictly on the basis of merit-cum-choice following a Central PG entrance examination. Service officers who, on study leave, join AFMC Pune, for super specialisation, however, do not have to go through a written test for admission. AMC personnel have prior claim on the PG seats, depending upon the Service requirements. However, PG seats which are not availed of by the Service personnel are offered to other categories like Foreign sponsored candidates, ex-SSC officers and lastly, if any seats remain, to Civilian Doctors. Thus, the opportunities for the Post Graduate studies available to the Army Medical Corps personnel are not squandered.

Details of year-wise allotment of seats which were not required by the AMC and given to non-service personnel are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

| Hospital/Year | Foreign candidates | Para Military officers | Ex-Service officers | Civilians |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AFMC Pune** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | 04 | 07 | 13 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | 08 | 16 |

| Hospital/Year | Foreign candidates | Para Military officers | Ex-Service officers | Civilians |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3 | — | 09 | 25 |
| 1998-99 | 4 | — | 05 | 12 |
| **Army Research & Referral Hospital Delhi Cantt** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | 09 | 22 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 16 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | 05 | 07 |
| 1998-99 | — | — | 11 | 06 |
| **Command Hospital, Air Force, Bangalore** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | — | 20 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 16 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | — | — | — | — |
| **INHS Asvini, Mumbai** | | | | |
| 1995-96 | — | — | 01 | 34 |
| 1996-97 | — | — | — | 22 |
| 1997-98 | — | — | 02 | 31 |
| 1998-99 | — | — | — | 20 |

**Function of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**

*109. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) from which date Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) started functioning;

(b) whether CERC is to aid and advise the Central government in the formulation of tariff policy;

(c) if so, whether the same was sought by the Government before enhancement of fixed cost charges of three Central sector power stations in the Eastern region;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether CERC is to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government; and

(f) if so, whether hike in NTPC tariff in eastern region was approved by CERC; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The EVC was constituted on 24th July, 1998 and Chairperson and Members were sworn in August, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) The Regulatory Commission can be considered fully functional when the staff has been engaged, its rules and regulations including tariff procedures and methodology have been notified and made effective. Once this is completed, Central Government will issue a notification omitting Section 43(A) (2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 under Section 51 of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 which would enable the CERC to regulate tariff for central sector generating stations. Pending issue of such notification, the Central